

County of Cook, Illinois



2011 Program Year Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

(Submittal – December 26, 2012)

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of the
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CAPER

Second Program Year

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) includes Narrative Responses to CAPER questions that CDBG, ESG, and HOME grantees must answer each year to be compliant with HUD consolidated planning regulations. This CAPER covers the second program year related to the current Consolidated Plan.

GENERAL

Executive Summary

Purpose and Scope

The Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) is an annual performance report required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) which must include a summary of available resources, specific program and/or project investments, and related beneficiaries and outcomes. A CAPER correlates with both the Consolidated Plan and the Annual Action Plan as it relates to the same program year. This particular CAPER consists of the second year of the current 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan and corresponds with the Annual Action Plan that covers Program Year 2011 that spans October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

This CAPER covers HUD entitlement funding for the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)
- HOME Investment Partnerships

Please note: During Program Year 2011, the Federal regulations governing the ESG program were substantially modified. This program revision included changing the program name from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants while the related acronym remained the same. These regulatory changes took effect beginning with the second allocation of 2011 ESG dollars. While these funds were technically awarded under the auspices of the 2011 Program Year, they actually correspond with the 2012 Program Year per HUD guidance. As such, related performance data for the 2011 second allocation is not included in this CAPER, which covers an earlier reporting period.

The programs and projects outlined in the CAPER are restricted to Cook County's jurisdiction under the CDBG Urban County and HOME Consortium. Presently, the CDBG Urban County includes all suburban municipalities under 50,000 in population, unincorporated areas, and the City of Chicago Heights. All members of the CDBG Urban County are automatically members of the HOME Consortium. In addition, the Town of Cicero and the City of Berwyn are members of the HOME Consortium and receive ESG funding through Cook County. The Village of Oak Park also recently joined the HOME Consortium but continues to receive CDBG and ESG funding directly from HUD. Chicago and Evanston receive significant CDBG, ESG,

and HOME entitlement funds direct from HUD. Under an initiative jointly led by HUD Region V and Cook County executive leadership, efforts are currently underway to solicit the addition of the following communities to the Urban County and/or the Consortium: Arlington Heights, Des Plaines, Hoffman Estates, Mount Prospect, Oak Lawn, Palatine, Schaumburg, and Skokie.

Administration

The Cook County Board of Commissioners has designated the Department of Planning and Development within the Bureau of Economic Development to serve as the lead agency for administration of all HUD-funded programs on behalf of suburban Cook County.

Resources

In Program Year 2011, the actual budget for Cook County's HUD programs totaled \$18,642,599.52 and consisted of the following resources:

Source	Entitlement Grant	Match	Program Income
CDBG	\$9,405,820	N/A	\$107,626.92
ESG	\$432,115	\$432,115	N/A
HOME	\$5,523,940	\$1,380,985	\$1,359,997.60
TOTAL	\$15,361,875	\$1,813,100	\$1,467,624.52

Due to major program regulatory changes at the Federal level, Cook County received a second allocation of 2011 ESG funding totaling \$243,065. However, based upon the timing of these regulatory changes, the second allocation of ESG actually corresponds with the 2012 Program Year. As such, related performance data for the 2011 second allocation is not included in this CAPER, which covers an earlier reporting period.

Both the ESG and HOME program regulations have a match requirement of one-hundred (100) percent and twenty-five (25) percent respectively. Due to limited corporate funds, required match is fully furnished by funding recipients based upon eligible match sources. In some cases, the amount of match provided actually exceeds the required amount. While CDBG funds do not specifically require match, related funding recipients often leverage additional public and private resources. Please see the Appendix for additional information.

In addition to Program Year 2011 resources, Cook County continued to work to commit and expend older available funds across all three programs. Please see the Appendix for additional information.

Funds remaining currently for continued use in Program Year 2012 are detailed below.

Source	Program Year	Uncommitted Entitlement Grant	Uncommitted Program Income	Unspent Entitlement Grant (includes commitments for active projects)	Unspent Program Income
CDBG	2011	\$2,353,751.48	\$0	\$9,405,820	\$0
CDBG	2010	\$0	\$0	\$4,004,033.04	\$0
ESG	2011	\$12,041.37	\$0	\$131,579.18	\$0
ESG	2010	\$17,063.58	\$0	\$17,063.58	\$0
HOME	2011	\$1,581,223	\$258,706.34	\$5,523,940	\$258,706.34
HOME	2010	\$0	\$0	\$5,863,503.70	\$0
HOME	2009	\$0	\$0	\$5,108,016.61	\$0
HOME	2008	\$13,536.60	\$0	\$2,725,071.94	\$0
TOTALS		\$3,977,616.03	\$258,706.34	\$32,779,028.05	\$258,706.34

Ongoing efforts to commit and expend remaining funds intensified in Program Year 2011 and will continue in Program Year 2012. Remaining HOME funding is anticipated to be fully committed in Program Year 2012 based upon a revitalized project pipeline. Several housing projects are currently being underwritten with Board review/approval expected within the next few months. HOME expenditures across all remaining years are also expected to accelerate based upon currently active and pending projects. In some cases, CDBG and ESG project funding was modified via internal amendments or Substantial Amendments as allowable under HUD and Cook County rules. Remaining uncommitted CDBG and ESG funding will be dedicated to existing and new projects via additional Substantial Amendments to the 2011 and 2012 Annual Action Plans as enclosed in the Appendix. Project management and invoice processing protocols across all three programs continue to be refined to promote more timely and efficient expenditure of grant dollars.

Please note - during financial reconciliation of CDBG at the close of Program Year 2011, a variance totaling \$20,293.84 was identified as it relates to line 16 of the 2010 PR 26 report and line 01 of the same report for 2011. The County recognizes that these figures should equal. It is difficult to determine the source of this error as the CDBG program spans a few decades and not all related information is retained in IDIS or JD Edwards (the County's accounting software) which are newer systems. In the absence of other information/documentation, it is believed that this variance is due to a clerical error in a prior year. The PR 26 report for 2011 included in the Appendix does contain correct data which has been reconciled against current financial records."

Applicable Goals and Strategies

As noted earlier, this CAPER correlates with the 2011 Annual Action Plan and 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan, that outlined the following strategies over the covered term. Based upon current economic conditions, assessed need and available resources, some strategies as noted below are not addressed in each Annual Action Plan and corresponding CAPER.

Initial discussions regarding substantial revision of the Consolidated Plan are in process to ensure that all HUD planning and performance report documents going

forward more accurately reflect local needs and priorities as well as related strategies and anticipated outcomes. It is expected that the eCon Planning Suite, recently developed and released by HUD, will facilitate a more comprehensive and transparent process.

Affordable Housing Strategies:

1.1 Affordable Housing Program: provide financing to qualified developers to preserve and increase the supply of affordable multi-family rental housing units through acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of rental housing for low- and moderate-income households.

1.2 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance: provide rental assistance to low- and extremely low-income renter households at-risk of homelessness.

1.3 Homeowner Rehabilitation: provide financial assistance to existing homeowners to preserve and improve the existing supply of affordable owner-occupied housing units through rehabilitation and energy efficiency improvements.

1.4 Homebuyer Assistance: provide financing and HUD-certified counseling to qualified low- and moderate-income households looking to purchase their first home.

Homeless Strategies:

2.1 Shelter Operations: provide support and assistance to the Continuum of Care and the network of emergency shelter, transitional housing, and homeless service providers in order to accomplish the ultimate goal of moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing situations.

2.2. Homeless Prevention: provide financial and counseling assistance to organizations that assist individuals and families at-risk of becoming homeless.

2.3 Permanent Supportive Housing Development: provide financing to qualified developers to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing opportunities for chronically homeless persons.

2.4 Permanent Supportive Housing Rental Assistance: provide tenant-based rental assistance to support permanent supportive housing opportunities for chronically homeless persons.

Supportive Housing Strategies:

3.1 Permanent Supportive Housing Development: provide financing to qualified developers to preserve and increase the supply of permanent supportive rental housing through acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction.

Community Development Strategies:

4.1 Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements: provide assistance to targeted low-income communities to upgrade infrastructure, capital improvement projects, and public facility improvements, with a focus on low- and moderate-income areas.

4.2 Housing Services: increase the level of housing-related public services available and accessible to low- and moderate-income households.

4.3 Social Services: provide financial assistance to non-profits and public agencies to increase the availability of community-based services designed to enhance the quality of life for low- and moderate-income households.

4.4 Economic Development: provide economic development assistance to new and existing businesses to retain or create new employment opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons.

4.5 Blight Removal: clear and remove blighted structures that destabilize neighborhoods and detract from neighborhood investment in order to redevelop the property that contributes to the sustainability of the area.

4.6 Neighborhood Planning: provide planning assistance to communities and neighborhoods in CDBG-eligible areas.

Objectives and Outcomes

In Program Year 2011, Cook County HUD resources were anticipated to be allocated in accordance with the HUD Performance Measurement Framework as noted below (exclusive of dollars set-aside for planning and administration):

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES	Availability	Affordability	Sustainability	TOTALS
Suitable Living Environment	\$1,886,978 (CDBG/ESG)	\$16,000 (CDBG/ESG)	\$6,013,853 (CDBG/ESG)	\$7,916,831
Decent Housing	\$40,000 (CDBG/ESG)	\$4,971,546 (HOME)	N/A	\$5,011,546
Economic Opportunity	\$55,000 (CDBG)	N/A	\$50,000 (CDBG)	\$105,000
TOTALS	\$1,981,978	\$4,987,546	\$6,063,853	\$13,033,377

In some cases, in light of updated project information or related amendments, modification of the objective/outcome coding was necessary. Please see the Appendix for current classifications.

Public Participation

This CAPER was developed in accordance with Cook County's current Citizen Participation Plan, which facilitates public input and comment for all HUD-funded programming. The public consultation process for Program Year 2011 included multiple public hearings conducted by the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) and/or Cook County Board as appropriate related to general information, the Annual Action Plan, and the CAPER. The Draft CAPER was made available to the public via the Cook County website as well as on-site at Cook County offices. All related public meetings as well as availability of the draft report for public review and comment were advertised via local newspaper as well as the Cook County website, blog, and listservs. A summary transcript of the related CDAC meeting as well as any written comments received, as available, may be found in the Appendix.

Performance Summary and Future Planning

Given the reorganization of the Department of Planning and Development into the newly formed Bureau of Economic Development and ongoing internal restructuring, Cook County evaluated progress and challenges to date during Program Year 2011 as a means to inform current and future operations and strategies.

Cook County CDBG dollars support various community and economic development activities including but not limited to infrastructure improvements, public facilities, public services, demolition, and housing rehabilitation. In a typical year, CDBG provides direct benefits (through a funded service or facility) to approximately 90,000 residents, 70% of whom are low- and moderate- income. Since 1994, Cook County has received \$319,359,674 in CDBG funds. Cumulatively, approximately 99% of all funds received have been formally committed and nearly 95% disbursed.

While Cook County has faced challenges in meeting timeliness standard ratio requirements recently, a workout plan to address this issue has been reviewed with HUD headquarter and Region V offices and is in the process of being implemented. The plan identifies the key reasons for the lack of compliance and proposes five activities for addressing them including a: proposed reallocation of prior years' funds totaling approximately \$6 million that fully funds the majority of Program Year 2012 capital projects, establishment of a CDBG project management process for more proactive oversight of subrecipients and their projects, staff reorganization into smaller more effective functional and programmatic units, prioritizing the Department's financial and grants management systems for technical assistance under the HUD sponsored OneCPD consultation, and a revision of our CDBG policies and procedures.

The related Substantial Amendments are currently under public review and comment and are slated for implementation upon CDAC and/or Board approval as appropriate by December of 2012. A significant data cleanup initiative in the HUD Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) was also launched resulting in the cancellation, completion, or revision of activities as appropriate. These efforts will continue.

Cook County ESG dollars subsidize the operations of essential homeless shelters and support the provision of services that serve as a safety net for those most in need. In a typical year, ESG benefits approximately 5,000 persons who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. Since program inception in 1987, Cook County has received \$9,001,887 in ESG funds. Cumulatively, approximately 99% of all funds received have been formally committed and nearly 98% disbursed. Given the recent Federal redesign of the ESG program and increase in funds awarded, Cook County anticipates an expanded program impact going forward. Revision of internal policies, procedures, processes, and documentation to reflect the updated regulatory requirements is ongoing.

Cook County HOME dollars support the development or preservation of affordable housing for low-income households. Since program inception in 1992, HOME has assisted 2,408 rental, 299 homebuyer, and 551 homeowner units and households. Cook County has received \$114,176,896 in HOME funding to date. Cumulatively, approximately 95% of all funds received have been formally

committed and nearly 82% disbursed. Cook County ranks first in the State in leveraging for rental activities, the percentage of completed rental disbursements to all rental commitments, and the percentage of occupied rental units to all completed rental units as noted in the HUD HOME Snapshot Report as of June 30, 2012. Significant progress has been made since 2010 in the commitment and expenditure of older HOME funds including the successful retention of nearly \$5 million at risk of recapture due to non-expenditure and nearly \$24 million at risk of deobligation due to non-commitment. A significant data cleanup initiative in IDIS was also launched resulting in the cancellation, completion, or revision of activities as appropriate. Additional Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) certifications and related operating grants have also been processed, enhancing local non-profit development capacity.

Going forward, these efforts to enhance internal and funding recipient capacity as well as improve funding commitment, disbursement, and project completion rates will continue and expand. While recent decreases in Federal entitlement dollars nationwide will be challenging given increasing community needs and service demands, Cook County is poised to move forward to seek and solicit additional competitive funding, better evaluate critical local needs, and strategically leverage available resources under the leadership of newly appointed senior management including the Bureau Chief, Director, and two Deputy Directors, focused upon housing and community development respectively.

General Questions

1. Assessment of the one-year goals and objectives:

a. Describe the accomplishments in attaining the goals and objectives for the reporting period.

As noted earlier, this CAPER correlates with the 2011 Annual Action Plan and 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan, that outlined the following strategies and goals over the covered term. Based upon current economic conditions, assessed need and available resources, some strategies as noted below are not addressed in each Annual Action Plan and corresponding CAPER.

Based upon the ongoing reorganization of programming and staffing under new leadership, Cook County is in the process of evaluating existing goals and strategies to identify potential necessary changes. Towards this end, preliminary discussions regarding substantial revision of the Consolidated Plan are in process to ensure that all HUD planning and performance report documents going forward more accurately reflect local needs and priorities as well as related strategies and anticipated outcomes. It is expected that the eCon Planning Suite, recently developed and released by HUD, will facilitate a more comprehensive and transparent process.

In the interim, please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects as well as related accomplishments for Program Year 2011 based upon the current goals and strategies.

In six cases, final Program Year 2011 performance reports have been requested but are still forthcoming from CDBG funding recipients. This has been noted in the Appendix where applicable. Follow-up is ongoing and Cook County is prepared to declare a finding of non-compliance and initiate corrective action as appropriate.

Strategy Type	Strategy	2010-2014 Goal	2011 Goal	Comments
Affordable Housing Strategies	1.1 Affordable Housing Program	Assist 950 housing units	Assist 190 housing units	See Appendix
Affordable Housing Strategies	1.2 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance	Assist 875 housing units	Assist 175 housing units	Program inactive in PY 2011
Affordable Housing Strategies	1.3 Homeowner Rehabilitation	Assist 225 housing units	Assist 45 housing units	Program inactive in PY 2011
Affordable Housing Strategies	1.4 Homebuyer Assistance	Assist 125 housing units	Assist 25 housing units	Program inactive in PY 2011
Homeless Strategies	2.1 Shelter Operations	Assist 7,500 households	Assist 1,500 households	See Appendix
Homeless Strategies	2.2. Homeless Prevention	Assist 600 households	Assist 120 households	See Appendix
Homeless Strategies	2.3 Permanent Supportive Housing Development	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	See Appendix
Homeless Strategies	2.4 Permanent Supportive Housing Rental Assistance	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	See Appendix
Supportive Housing Strategies	3.1 Permanent Supportive Housing Development	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	N/A – Included in Overall Affordable Housing Goals	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.1 Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements	Assist 275 facilities	Assist 55 facilities	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.2 Housing Services	Assist 10,000 households	Assist 2,000 households	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.3 Social Services	Assist 5,000 households	Assist 1,000 households	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.4 Economic Development	Assist 50 businesses	Assist 10 businesses	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.5 Blight Removal	Demolish 100 properties	Demolish 20 properties	See Appendix
Community Development Strategies	4.6 Neighborhood Planning	N/A – Included in Administration	N/A – Included in Administration	See Appendix

b. Provide a breakdown of the CPD formula grant funds spent on grant activities for each goal and objective.

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects as well as related accomplishments for Program Year 2011 based upon the current goals and strategies.

c. If applicable, explain why progress was not made towards meeting the goals and objectives.

As noted earlier, this CAPER correlates with the 2011 Annual Action Plan and 2010-2014 Consolidated Plan that outlined various strategies and goals over the covered term. It appears that some of the goals and objectives may require revision to establish benchmarks that are more realistic and measures that are more effective. Based upon the ongoing reorganization of programming and staffing under new leadership, Cook County is in the process of evaluating existing goals and strategies to identify potential necessary changes. It is expected that the eCon Planning Suite, recently developed and released by HUD, will facilitate a more comprehensive and transparent process.

Additionally, some current and prospective funding recipients have limited resources and capacity. Cook County continues to monitor and evaluate this issue through daily project management across all programs. To the extent possible and reasonable, Cook County provides informal technical assistance regarding program and project requirements to improve performance and compliance. These efforts will continue in Program Year 2012.

Cook County also continues to work to enhance internal administrative capacity to promote more effective grants management. The ongoing reorganization of staffing and operations contributes to this effort.

2. Describe the manner in which the recipient would change its program as a result of its experiences.

As noted earlier in this report, the programs and operations of the Cook County Department of Planning and Development continue to evolve under new leadership. Dialogue regarding how to best leverage increasingly limited resources while striving to address ever changing and growing community needs is ongoing. Senior management has begun to identify, and where possible implement, efficiency improvements related to organizational structure, staffing and professional development, policies/procedures/documentation, marketing and outreach, etc. Amidst all of this change, it has become clear that the strategic plans, including the Consolidated Plan, currently in place need to be substantially revised to more closely reflect the vision of Cook County under President Toni Preckwinkle's leadership. Towards this end, Cook County submitted a request to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for technical assistance with this anticipated Consolidated Plan update. Funding for this technical assistance is being provided by HUD's Sustainable Communities Grant program. Cook County was recently notified that this request was approved and initial planning discussions took place in late 2012 with project launch anticipated in 2013.

3. Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing:

a. Provide a summary of impediments to fair housing choice.

b. Identify actions taken to overcome effects of impediments identified.

As a Federal funding recipient, Cook County is committed to affirmatively furthering fair housing both within and beyond its HUD-funded grant programs.

Broadly, the Cook County Commission on Human Rights (CCCHR) enforces the Cook County Human Rights Ordinance, which was initially adopted on March 16,

1993. This ordinance is designed to protect all people who live and work in Cook County from discrimination and sexual harassment in employment, public accommodations, housing, credit transactions, County services, and county contracting.

The ordinance prohibits these forms of discrimination when they are based upon a person's race, color, sex, age, religion, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, military discharge status, source of income, housing status, or gender identity. Discussion regarding potential modification of the ordinance to include housing choice vouchers as a source of income is ongoing.

The CCCHR enforces this ordinance by investigating, conciliating, and conducting hearings on complaints of discrimination. In addition, the CCCHR develops and conducts educational programs designed to prevent discrimination before it occurs and to promote better relations among the County's diverse racial, ethnic, religious, cultural, and social groups. The CCCHR shares jurisdiction over complaints with other enforcement agencies including the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, Illinois Department of Human Rights, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and HUD.

Within the Cook County Department of Planning and Development, efforts related to promotion and enforcement of fair housing specific to HUD funded programs have expanded.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County engaged the services of Applied Real Estate Analysis (AREA), Inc. to prepare an Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AIFHC). As the prior AIFHC is several years old, the updated AIFHC aims to help identify current obstacles as well as lay the framework for strategies for enhanced compliance. Development of the AIFHC was recently completed. The AIFHC was submitted to HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) as well as its Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) in September 2012 and response is currently pending. The updated AIFHC outlined a basic framework for improving municipal funding recipient compliance in accordance with a tiered scale. Internal discussion as well as communication with the CCCHR regarding implementation is ongoing. It is anticipated that the pending update of the Consolidated Plan will more fully summarize this compliance initiative and create a base for future reporting on related strategies, goals, and accomplishments via Annual Action Plan and CAPER submittals going forward.

In the interim, potential funding applicants are also subject to compliance measures across the various programs. All funding application materials highlight major Federal requirements including fair housing compliance. Applicants for HOME affordable housing development funding are also required to provide an affirmative marketing plan and tenant selection plan (as applicable). CDBG and/or ESG funding applicants are also required to attend a pre-application workshop, which includes an overview of funding requirements including fair housing as appropriate.

Funding recipients receive written agreements, which outline pertinent Federal rules and regulations as well as related compliance requirements based upon the funding source. Funding recipients of HOME affordable housing development provide progress updates on affirmative marketing and tenant selection initiatives

as well as occupancy status during the required monitoring process. CDBG and/or ESG funding recipients are also required to attend a post-award workshop whereby contractual agreements are distributed and an overview of major requirements including fair housing compliance as appropriate is presented.

Fair housing efforts include targeted outreach, education, and compliance specific to CDBG-funded municipal agencies. In April 2012, the Cook County Department of Planning and Development sponsored a Fair Housing Forum for the second year in a row for all CDBG-funded municipal agencies. CDBG municipal funding recipients are also required to provide an updated Fair Housing Action Plan, which must include all of the protective classes outlined in the County's ordinance and detail current or planned actions to affirmatively further fair housing in their community. Cook County staff continues to monitor municipal fair housing compliance via desk and on-site reviews of documentation, policies, and processes. It is anticipated that these compliance efforts will intensify in Program Year 2012.

The Cook County Department of Planning and Development continues to consult with fair housing stakeholders including CCCHR, HUD CPD and FHEO, and the Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance (CAFHA) as it strives to enhance fair housing compliance both internally and Countywide. CAFHA has proven a valuable partner in the process as a consortium of fair housing and advisory organizations, government agencies, and municipalities committed to the value of fair housing, diversity, and integration. In Program Year 2011, Cook County continued to provide financial support for fair housing activities via the provision of CDBG funding to regional agencies for support of fair housing education, outreach, testing, and enforcement activities. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects as well as related accomplishments for Program Year 2011.

4. Describe Other Actions in Strategic Plan or Action Plan taken to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan identified several barriers to fulfilling underserved needs. However, the key obstacle concerns a lack of available resources. Recent reductions in Federal formula grant programs coupled with limited municipal capacity to address key issues in suburban communities have spurred Cook County to pursue competitive grant opportunities to supplement existing dollars. Cook County also realizes that it must make the most of the funding that it does have by targeting sub-regional clusters in the North, West, and South with strategies and investments reflecting local needs. In PY 2011 and continuing into PY 2012, Cook County is assessing local needs and related capacity and resources as part of developing a more strategic investment framework.

The Transition Team for current Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle identified the need to develop a more robust economic development program early on. Ultimately, this work served as the impetus for several new initiatives launched in Program Year 2011, which also aim to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

In late Program Year 2011, Cook County prepared and submitted an application for Section 108 Loan Guarantee funding to HUD with response currently pending. The application outlined plans to establish a \$30 million loan pool known as the BUILT

(Broadening Urban Investment to Leverage Transportation) in Cook Loan Fund. If approved, the loan pool will be utilized to fund projects located within suburban Cook County that provide clear economic and community development benefits to low- and moderate-income persons and their communities. The Section 108 Loan Pool represents a new tool that the County can potentially use to support economic development efforts in targeted slow growth areas with market potential as well as in stronger market areas where new jobs could be made available to low- and moderate-income residents. If authorized by HUD, funds will be utilized to support a wide range of CDBG-eligible activities contingent upon evolving local needs, and available resources. Specifically, Section 108 financing would enable Cook County to support large-scale projects and activities on an accelerated timeline not feasible with current resources for a broader economic development impact including support to sustain and grow local businesses as well as create and retain jobs for low- and moderate-income persons.

Additionally, Cook County has formally established a Land Bank Advisory Committee that is tasked with studying and advising County leadership regarding a responsible, legal, and effective model for the land bank, as well as the potential budget, target areas, and scope of services. The Committee is also charged with evaluating methods and recommending initiatives to market existing tax incentives in conjunction with strategies for community revitalization, economic growth, and the development of affordable housing and open space.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County also created a Council of Economic Advisors, a group of more than twenty distinguished business and civic leaders from across the region who will advise the County on how to promote long-term economic growth within Cook County as well as throughout the broader region.

5. Leveraging Resources

a. Identify progress in obtaining “other” public and private resources to address needs.

In addition to CDBG, ESG, and HOME funding, the County continues to explore additional funding opportunities to improve the quality of life for Cook County households. Given recent national reductions in formula grant programs, the County recognizes the need to adapt its grant operations to the reality of decreasing funds and increasing demands. Cook County continues to position itself to apply for competitive grants both individually as well as in partnership with local or regional public, private, and non-profit stakeholders.

In Program Year 2011, as a joint applicant with the Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC), Cook County submitted an application to HUD for a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to support the creation of a comprehensive community, economic, and affordable housing redevelopment strategy plan. This grant application was the result of the collaborative effort of Cook County, HACC, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), and the Village of Robbins. The planning grant, if funded, would have targeted the community surrounding the former Willett public housing site in south suburban Robbins inclusive of low-income families and special needs households. If successful in obtaining funds, this plan would have laid the groundwork for a future application for a HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant. Recently, HACC and Cook County learned that this proposal was not successful. However, a request for debrief with HUD staff regarding

application ranking and recommendations for future submissions has been submitted with scheduling pending. It is anticipated that this HUD briefing will inform future anticipated applications for Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant and Implementation Grant funding.

In Program Year 2011, the groundwork was laid for a future application to the Federal Economic Development Administration (EDA), a unit of the U.S. Department of Commerce, for a Public Works Grant to help fund the reconstruction of a one and a half mile section of Center Street in Harvey in south suburban Cook County. In recent years, Harvey has seen a marked increase in truck traffic in and around the Center Street industrial corridor due to rapid expansion of freight rail logistics and intermodal business activity. Some estimates anticipate as much as a four-fold increase over the next three years in intermodal transfers and lifts at the Canadian National Rail Yard in Harvey, which runs adjacent to Center Street. The Cook County Department of Highways & Transportation with initial support from the Department of Planning and Development, intends to submit this application in Program Year 2012. In the interim, Cook County recently announced plans to invest \$8 - \$10 million in County Motor Fuel Tax revenue to reconstruct Center Street to handle the anticipated increases in truck traffic. If awarded, the EDA Public Works Grant would provide as much as \$2.5 million to assist with this effort.

Cook County also collaborated with the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA) and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) to create components of a combined proposal to several Federal agencies including the EDA for the CaluMetal Advanced Manufacturing Cluster. The proposed project builds on two major economic assets of the Calumet sub-region: its central position in the North American freight and passenger railroad networks and its place in the nation's largest regional cluster of metal working companies. The project seeks to establish the CaluMetal Cluster as a leading group of sustainable equipment suppliers for the international freight and transit railroad industries, and through this means revitalize impoverished Calumet communities with good jobs and a strengthened local tax base. The CNT, SSMMA, and Cook County team aims to connect Cluster companies to market opportunities in the freight and passenger railroad supply chain through research, database development, marketing and networking, and support the expansion of current and new Cluster companies by facilitating site and plant development.

b. How Federal resources from HUD leveraged other public and private resources.

Cook County leveraged 2011 Program Year resources (including entitlement grant allocations, receipted program income, and required match) with additional HUD funding provided on a formula basis through Federal economic stimulus initiatives as outlined below:

- Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act (CDBG-R): \$2,853,255
- Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP): \$4,121,046
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) – 1: \$28,156,321
- Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) – 3: \$7,776,324

CDBG-R and HPRP programs ended as of September 30, 2012 and closeout including expenditure of remaining eligible funds is currently in process in consultation with HUD. NSP 1 and 3 are ongoing with continued expenditures.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County also requested and received an extension to utilize remaining funds under a previously awarded \$12.6 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). The Cook County Department of Environmental Control currently administers these funds.

In addition, the local Continuum of Care received \$9,718,283 in HUD funding to support homeless needs in suburban Cook County in Program Year 2011. Within this total, renewed funding totaled \$8,873,751 and new funding totaled \$844,532. The vast majority of available funds (\$9,197,831) were allocated under the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) component and were split between new projects and renewals. The remainder (\$520,452) was provided under the Shelter Plus Care component as project renewals.

Given recent decreases in available entitlement funds at the national level, HUD and Cook County continue to explore methods for consolidating grant operations for the more effective use of available resources. Towards this end, efforts are also currently underway, in cooperation with HUD leadership, to explore adding current non-member jurisdictions to the CDBG Urban County and/or HOME Consortium, which has the potential to reduce administrative costs and duplication between local municipalities, the County, and HUD. In addition, the inclusion of these members will permit HUD to count their population in the calculation of the County's annual entitlement allocations.

c. How matching requirements were satisfied.

Both the ESG and HOME program regulations have a match requirement of one-hundred (100) percent and twenty-five (25) percent respectively. Due to limited corporate funds, required match is fully furnished by funding recipients based upon eligible match sources. In some cases, the amount of match provided actually exceeds the required amount. While CDBG funds do not specifically require match, related funding recipients often leverage additional public and private resources. Please see the Appendix for additional information.

Cook County is very interested in tracking funding leverage beyond required match. The entire County currently reports on accomplishments via the Set Targets Achieve Results (STAR) performance management initiative. It is anticipated that a performance measure will be developed and implemented in the future to better capture other financial resources leveraged with Federal grant dollars. Initial discussions regarding standardization of IDIS data entries to consistently reflect match are also underway.

Managing the Process

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to ensure compliance with program and comprehensive planning requirements.

Cook County is governed by the County Board President and the 17-member Board of Commissioners, who are elected to a four-year term. The President and Board approve all projects for CDBG, ESG, and HOME. The Board has designated the Department of Planning and Development within the Bureau of Economic Development to serve as the lead agency for administration of HUD-funded programs on behalf of suburban Cook County.

The mission of the Bureau is to: “foster economic development and job growth within Cook County to promote sustainable community investment, business growth, attraction, and retention, affordable housing, regional planning, and workforce development”. In addition to the Department of Planning and Development, the Bureau includes the following departments: Capital Planning and Policy, Real Estate Management, Building and Zoning, and Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, a newly formed private non-for-profit County affiliate.

The mission of the Department of Planning and Development is to develop sustainable and vibrant urban communities by: “fostering economic opportunities and business development, preserving and expanding the supply of decent, affordable housing, promoting fair housing, and supporting programs that address the problems of homelessness.”

In Program Year 2011, the County worked in cooperation with local governments, councils of government, private and public agencies, for profit and nonprofit organizations, and the general public to address the housing, community, and economic development needs of suburban Cook County. This outreach has helped Cook County develop more meaningful plans and reports, use limited resources more efficiently, and reduce gaps in delivering services.

Cook County leadership actively participated in informal discussions, regular meetings, and training series at the national (National Association of Counties - NACO, National Association for County and Community Economic Development - NACCED, etc.), state (Governor’s Conference on Affordable Housing, etc.), regional (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning - CMAP, Metropolitan Planning Council - MPC, Urban Land Institute - ULI, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Center for Neighborhood Technology - CNT, etc.), etc.), and local/sub regional (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation, West/Northwest/South housing collaboratives, etc.) levels so that County initiatives could be coordinated with the programs of other public and private entities.

In Program Year 2011, management and staff engaged in regular dialogue, formal and informal, with HUD staff and leadership at the local, regional, and national levels to ensure that programs were operated effectively, in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations. Professional development was emphasized with management and staff participating in remote webinars and classroom trainings offered by HUD, the National Development Council (NDC), and others as appropriate. Staff was encouraged to pursue training certifications where available.

Within the County, under the President’s leadership, efforts to promote interagency and interdepartmental communication and collaboration have intensified. The Department actively consults with other departments within the Bureau of Economic Development and across Cook County government to disseminate information and target resources in pursuit of our mission. In the past year, the Department collaborated with the County’s Highway Department on two unsuccessful, but highly rated, TIGER applications to stimulate freight-related economic development in the south suburbs. The Department of Planning and Development was also a significant force in advocating with the Highway Department for the funding of the Center Street improvements discussed earlier in this report, as the related truck route reconstruction was too critical to await an award from existing Federal grant programs, which are already oversubscribed.

Discussions regarding potential collaborative grant opportunities among several County departments are ongoing.

In the coming year, the Department will be preparing a strategic plan to guide investments to more sustainable locations for purposes that address needs identified by the diverse set of stakeholders.

Citizen Participation

1. Provide a summary of citizen comments.

Cook County currently formally solicits public input and comment regarding HUD-funded programs several times a year at three regional informational hearings as well as at separate hearings whereby funding applicants present proposed programs/projects for consideration and County staff present related funding recommendations. Each municipality or township requesting Federal funds through Cook County also conducts public hearings to provide basic information and discuss local needs, present and prioritize proposed activities, and evaluate performance. Informally, the Bureau collects input every time it meets with funding recipients, intermediaries, and community representatives as part of the normal course of carrying out its work program.

Public comment periods and related public hearings through the Cook County Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) are publicized in local newspapers and on our website in advance. Reports requiring public comment are also published on our website. In addition, all public hearing proceedings are recorded by a court reporter with copies of related transcripts forwarded to HUD. Written comments are also accepted. With the AIFH and the Section 108 application, the County also convened two stakeholder meetings to solicit more detailed comments and discussion than are typically received via a public comment period. We anticipate holding more stakeholder sessions going forward.

This CAPER was developed in accordance with Cook County's current Citizen Participation Plan, which facilitates public input and comment for all HUD-funded programming. The public consultation process for Program Year 2011 included multiple public hearings conducted by the Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC) and/or Cook County Board as appropriate related to general information, the Annual Action Plan, and the CAPER. The Draft CAPER was made available to the public via the Cook County website as well as on-site at Cook County offices. All related public meetings as well as availability of the draft report for public review and comment were advertised via local newspaper as well as the Cook County website, blog, and listservs. A summary transcript of the related CDAC meeting as well as any written comments received, as available, may be found in the Appendix.

During Program Year 2011, senior and middle management also evaluated the current Citizen Participation Plan and related processes and documentation including CDAC operations as part of the development of a strategic plan for the Department. A Draft revised Plan including revisions necessary to improve HUD compliance as well as more effectively engage the public in Cook County programs was developed and released for public review and comment. Adoption by the CDAC occurred in November 2012 with submittal to HUD soon thereafter. Future submittals to HUD will conform to the principles of this updated plan.

- 2. In addition, the performance report provided to citizens must identify the Federal funds made available for furthering the objectives of the Consolidated Plan. For each formula grant program, the grantee shall identify the total amount of funds available (including estimated program income), the total amount of funds committed during the reporting period, the total amount expended during the reporting period, and the geographic distribution and location of expenditures. Jurisdictions are encouraged to include maps in describing the geographic distribution and location of investment (including areas of minority concentration). The geographic distribution and expenditure requirement may also be satisfied by specifying the census tracts where expenditures were concentrated.**

The chart below outlines resources available during Program Year 2011. Over the course of the program year, funding commitments and expenditures may have fluctuated. Please note – financial summary data as noted in the Appendix may vary slightly due to differing methods of calculation.

Source	Year	Entitlement Funding Available	Program Income Available	Total Committed	Total Drawn	Total Remaining to be Committed	Total Remaining to be Drawn
CDBG	2009	\$10,498,470	\$0	\$10,498,470	\$10,498,470	\$0	\$0
CDBG	2010	\$11,316,030	\$0	\$11,316,030	\$7,311,996.96	\$0	\$4,004,033.04
CDBG	2011	\$9,405,820	\$107,626.92	\$7,052,068.52	\$0	\$2,353,751.48	\$9,405,820
ESG	2010	\$435,001	\$0	\$417,937.42	\$417,937.42	\$17,063.58	\$17,063.58
ESG	2011	\$432,115	\$0	\$420,073.63	\$300,535.82	\$12,041.37	\$131,579.18
HOME	2004	\$984,781.95	\$0	\$984,781.95	\$984,781.95	\$0	\$0
HOME	2005	\$2,759,295.70	\$0	\$2,759,295.70	\$2,759,295.70	\$0	\$0
HOME	2006	\$963,041.40	\$0	\$963,041.40	\$963,041.40	\$0	\$0
HOME	2007	\$914,222.90	\$0	\$914,222.90	\$914,222.90	\$0	\$0
HOME	2008	\$3,942,142.92	\$0	\$3,864,441.94	\$1,115,822.60	\$77,700.98	\$2,826,320.32
HOME	2009	\$5,626,544	\$0	\$5,626,544	\$518,527.39	\$0	\$5,108,016.61
HOME	2010	\$6,232,906	\$0	\$5,609,615	\$145,254.93	\$0	\$6,087,651.07
HOME	2011	\$5,523,940	\$1,359,997.60	\$2,556,035.91	\$0	\$4,327,901.69	\$5,523,940

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects as well as related accomplishments for Program Year 2011.

Institutional Structure

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to overcome gaps in institutional structures and enhance coordination.

In addition to the organizational development and coordination/collaboration efforts outlined elsewhere in this report, Cook County continues to actively consult with and is beginning to rely on councils of government (COG) and the sub-regional housing collaboratives to act as intermediaries between the County and their municipal constituents as it relates to overarching community development efforts. These partnerships will continue to be utilized and respective roles better defined going forward.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County also continued to strengthen the capacity of its partner organizations through funding and technical assistance provision including ongoing support for Cook County-designated HOME Program Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs). Cook County continued to maintain an active dialogue with Housing Action Illinois and Chicago Rehab Network who receive funding direct from HUD to provide technical assistance to current or prospective CHDOs.

During Program Year 2011, two CHDOs were re-certified (Ford Heights Community Service Organization and Habitat for Humanity Chicago South Suburbs) while an additional organization (Interfaith Housing Development Corporation) was newly CHDO-certified. All three organizations also requested and received CHDO operating grant assistance. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded agencies.

Internally, the Bureau and the Department also continued to reorganize operations and staffing to improve program and project outcomes and enhance relative impacts. Reorganization of management and staff by functional area is currently in process with additional advisement and assistance ongoing through HUD's OneCPD technical assistance initiative.

Program Year 2011 included intensive efforts to commit and spend older, unexpended CDBG, ESG, and HOME funds, which will continue. This funds management strategy includes the cancellation of projects that have not progressed and the reallocation of their unexpended funds to other eligible activities as well as the completion of overdue projects that did achieve significant benchmarks but were still unfinished. Stricter monitoring and enforcement of significant project benchmarks will be a hallmark of management's efforts to ensure future compliance with the timeliness standard.

Monitoring

1. Describe how and the frequency with which you monitored your activities.

During Program Year 2011, Cook County began to analyze and update its monitoring policies and procedures for all HUD-funded programs to better comply with HUD requirements. Refinement of monitoring protocols continues. Monitoring processes are being restructured to include both desk and on-site review of agency, programmatic, project, and financial components. Monitoring is employed both during the life of an active project or program as well as upon project completion through the applicable affordability period (specific to HOME). Towards this end, related forms, policies, and procedures are anticipated to be fully updated in Program Years 2012 and 2013. As this issue intersects all HUD programs, Cook County is hopeful that technical assistance provided via the OneCPD initiative can further assist in this effort. The pending revision of the HOME rule will also impact this initiative.

In the interim, primary monitoring documents (including basic inspection forms, monitoring and reporting forms, risk assessment criteria, and monitoring schedules) have been developed. All actively funded entities must report to the County at least annually as it relates to progress and challenges; CDBG-funded projects currently report quarterly. Field visits are also regularly conducted by

County staff to assess program/project status as appropriate. Construction inspections occur regularly and disbursement of related funds is contingent upon County assessment of sufficient and appropriate progress. Basic spreadsheet-based tracking tools for monitoring active projects have also been implemented across the programs. Based upon the guidance of newly hired senior management, it is anticipated that staff will be redeployed as appropriate to more effectively fulfill monitoring duties.

Senior management has also instituted a biweekly case management system for CDBG capital projects to ensure that they progress according to the schedule in the subrecipient agreement, draw down funds regularly and close out promptly following completion. The process serves as a group exercise to change staff's approach to project management from passive to more proactive as well as a problem-solving venue for more challenged subrecipients/projects. This process was launched in late July 2012 and will continue for the foreseeable future to ensure the County meets HUD's Timeliness Ratio standard going forward. CDBG and ESG public service projects are similarly reviewed on a quarterly basis, as timeliness has been a lesser issue for these project types.

In addition, Cook County continues to actively participate in an Interagency Housing Council (consisting of HUD, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), City of Chicago, and Cook County senior and program management) to explore options for consolidation of HOME funding processes and documentation including those related to monitoring. In Program Year 2011, a universal tenant income certification form for assisted rental housing developments was jointly implemented. Additional options for consolidation and coordination currently under discussion include construction management operations and property management training.

2. Describe the results of your monitoring including any improvements.

As noted elsewhere in this report, significant progress has been made related to commitment and expenditure of older remaining funds as well as completion of projects. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status. Specific to CDBG, the pace of project drawdowns and closeout has increased over the past few months in light of the aforementioned case management system.

3. Self Evaluation

- a. Describe the effect programs have in solving neighborhood and community problems.**
- b. Describe progress in meeting priority needs and specific objectives and help make community's vision of the future a reality.**
- c. Describe how you provided decent housing and a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunity principally for low and moderate-income persons.**
- d. Indicate any activities falling behind schedule.**
- e. Describe how activities and strategies made an impact on identified needs.**
- f. Identify indicators that would best describe the results.**
- g. Identify barriers that had a negative impact on fulfilling the strategies and overall vision.**

- h. Identify whether major goals are on target and discuss reasons for those that are not on target.**
- i. Identify any adjustments or improvements to strategies and activities that might meet your needs more effectively.**

Please see the Executive Summary, General Questions, Managing the Process, and Institutional Structures, and Monitoring sections for related responses. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

Lead-based Paint

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to evaluate and reduce lead-based paint hazards.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County continued to ensure that all Federally-funded programs and/or projects remained compliant with HUD lead-based paint hazard rules and regulations through verification of the following:

- that project personnel maintained active appropriate industry certifications
- that abatement and remediation activities followed proper HUD and EPA protocols
- that current or potential housing occupants receive appropriate information, documentation, and disclosures.

Lead-based paint compliance requirements were outlined in pre-construction meetings as well as prospective homebuyer orientation sessions as appropriate.

Beyond the Department of Planning and Development, the Cook County Department of Public Health continued to work diligently to reduce lead hazards and limit potential exposure through the ongoing conduct of outreach and education related to the risks of lead exposure as well as preventative measures and resources. This Department also continued to monitor lead exposure prevalence throughout suburban Cook County via regular testing during Program Year 2011. The results of these efforts are currently pending public release.

HOUSING

Housing Needs

1. Describe Actions taken during the last year to foster and maintain affordable housing.

In Program Year 2011, the existing project pipeline was extensively evaluated under the leadership of the newly arrived Deputy Director. Several projects were found to be no longer moving forward due to changes in the development team, project scope, sources/uses, and/or local market needs and were appropriately cancelled. A few projects remained active but had experienced a series of delays. In these cases, revised commitments were prepared and jointly executed with strict deadlines for project initiation and completion specified. Enforcement of these agreements is

ongoing. Active, timely projects continue to receive ongoing project/construction management as well as technical assistance.

Upon completion of the aforementioned evaluation and related cancellation/reprogramming, it was clear that the pipeline needed to be refocused and revitalized. Towards this end, a Request for Applications (RFA) was released in early 2012. Several promising proposals were submitted which proceeded to underwriting and Board review/approval prior to joint execution of related agreements. A few proposals were awaiting final decisions from other funders, namely the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA). In accordance with recently released IHDA funding decisions, Cook County expects to commit all remaining HOME funds within the next few months.

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

Specific Housing Objectives

- 1. Evaluate progress in meeting specific objective of providing affordable housing, including the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income renter and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

- 2. Evaluate progress in providing affordable housing that meets the Section 215 definition of affordable housing for rental and owner households comparing actual accomplishments with proposed goals during the reporting period.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

- 3. Describe efforts to address “worst-case” housing needs and housing needs of persons with disabilities.**

Cook County continues to assess housing needs including special needs. While specific funds are not set-aside for special needs housing, several projects initiated during Program Year 2011 were classified as permanent supportive housing. In addition, HOME funding application and contractual documentation includes requirements related to Section 504 accessibility provisions, which are enforced during plan review as well as prior to, during, and after construction.

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

Public Housing Strategy

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to improve public housing and resident initiatives.

The Housing Authority of the County of Cook (HACC) is the second largest provider of affordable housing in the State of Illinois. HACC's mission is "To promote adequate and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and a suitable living environment free from discrimination." HACC recently experienced significant changes in its leadership structure including executive management and board membership. While HACC is a distinct entity, the Cook County President retains some legal authority. In Program Year 2011, the President and the HACC Executive Director announced plans to improve coordination between the respective agencies.

Discussions are ongoing between senior management regarding current and future potential for collaboration and coordination. In Program Year 2011, as a joint applicant with the HACC, Cook County submitted an application to HUD for a \$300,000 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to support the creation of a comprehensive community, economic, and affordable housing redevelopment strategy plan. This grant application was the result of the collaborative effort of Cook County, HACC, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), and the Village of Robbins. The planning grant, if funded, would have targeted the community surrounding the former Willett public housing site in south suburban Robbins inclusive of low-income families and special needs households. If successful in obtaining funds, this plan would have laid the groundwork for a future application for a HUD Choice Neighborhood Implementation Grant. Recently, HACC and Cook County learned that this proposal was not successful. However, a request for debrief with HUD staff regarding application ranking and recommendations for future submissions has been submitted with scheduling pending. In Program Year 2012, Cook County will continue to pursue opportunities for inter-jurisdictional collaboration with HACC as well as related funding to supplement existing dollars to serve the neediest Cook County communities and their citizenry.

Cook County also continued to explore opportunities for linkages between HACC programs and County affordable housing and community development dollars during Program Year 2011. Cook County provided HACC with information and technical assistance regarding potential project eligibility for future application for CDBG funds. Two HACC projects are currently under consideration for Program Year 2012 funding. While HOME funds are restricted as it relates to the modernization of public housing, it is possible to coordinate outreach and marketing activities related to HOME-funded ownership and rental developments. HOME staff maintains an open line of communication with HACC and advises regarding affordable housing opportunities – ownership or rental – which may be of interest to public housing residents or assistance recipients. In turn, HACC advertises said opportunities to current/prospective program participants. It is anticipated that a fuller strategy for HACC and Cook County coordination will be outlined in the next Consolidated Plan.

Barriers to Affordable Housing

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to eliminate barriers to affordable housing.

Any public policy, including taxes, land use controls, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, and growth limits, that adversely affect the cost of housing or the incentives to develop affordable housing are considered barriers to affordable housing. The County's current Consolidated Plan describes our strategy to remove or ameliorate negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing.

It is important to note that Cook County is composed of many home rule jurisdictions and has no legal authority over the land use regulations of incorporated municipalities within its boundaries. Municipalities are empowered to make land use decisions, adopt zoning plans and building codes, and establish fees and charges as deemed appropriate by local officials. As such, Cook County's land use authority is restricted to unincorporated suburban areas, which represent only 6.5% of Cook County's land area and 2% of its population. There are efforts underway to consolidate unincorporated areas with adjacent municipalities to more effectively utilize local resources. However, this will further restrict Cook County's legal authority over related land use policies and procedures.

Notably, Cook County does retain property tax incentive authority via the Cook County Assessor, which can help to alleviate the cost of developing and/or owning housing. Over the last year, the County has made significant progress in consolidating property data and information previously managed by multiple departments. A website aggregating related information including available tax exemptions and incentives was activated during Program Year 2011 to help clarify property taxation for the general public as well as housing investors.

While the County does not specifically set aside a proportion of HOME funds for preservation activities due to limited resources, it continued to participate in the Preservation Compact in Program Year 2011 currently housed at the Community Investment Corporation (CIC). Although no preservation set-aside exists, recent HOME investments include several projects consisting of acquisition and/or rehabilitation of multi-family rental housing with the aim of preserving existing rental stock.

Cook County also began to work closely with the State of Illinois and other stakeholders in Program Year 2011 to discuss strategies for fulfilling the permanent supportive housing provision requirements of the following consent decrees, which derive from the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on *Olmstead v. L.C.* as applicable:

- Colbert v. Quinn
- Ligas v. Quinn
- Williams v. Quinn

During Program Year 2011, Cook County explored options and best practices related to mitigation and elimination of additional barriers to affordable housing including land banking. Towards this end, the Cook County Board passed a Vacant Building Ordinance and authorized the creation of a Land Bank Advisory Committee during this reporting period as discussed elsewhere in this report.

HOME/ American Dream Down Payment Initiative (ADDI)

1. Assessment of Relationship of HOME Funds to Goals and Objectives

- a. Evaluate progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable housing using HOME funds, including the number and types of households served.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

2. HOME Match Report

- a. Use HOME Match Report HUD-40107-A to report on match contributions for the period covered by the Consolidated Plan program year.**

Please see the Appendix.

3. HOME MBE and WBE Report

- a. Use Part III of HUD Form 40107 to report contracts and subcontracts with Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBEs).**

Please see the Appendix.

4. Assessments

- a. Detail results of on-site inspections of rental housing.**

Each HOME-assisted project is physically inspected prior to, during, and after construction, including throughout the affordability period as appropriate, in accordance with the annual, bi-annual, or tri-annual schedule dictated by the HOME regulations based upon the number of units. An assessment of project financial and general conditions including occupancy status and income compliance complements this physical inspection process.

In Program Year 2011, Cook County evaluated its monitoring process and documentation and determined that substantial updates were required. One of the major needs identified pertained to portfolio and asset management. Towards this end, a Request for Proposal (RFP) for loan portfolio and asset management services was released in accordance with Cook County procurement requirements. SB Friedman Development Advisors was selected to provide the related professional services with project launch in early Program Year 2012.

In the interim, Cook County staff also revised desk monitoring documentation and transmitted a request for updated information/documentation to all current long-term rental projects with active affordability periods. Review of these submittals is currently in process. Staff has also begun development of a comprehensive database, which contains significant project level detail and will assist with desk and on-site monitoring including required inspections. The unexpected loss of the HOME Program's construction manager in mid-Program Year 2011 has hindered physical inspection efforts due to limited staffing. Going forward, the County will be consolidating the Construction Management function across all programs and will be looking to outsource specific components, with the on-site portfolio management inspections being one possible item to be outsourced.

b. Describe the HOME jurisdiction's affirmative marketing actions.

It is the policy of the Department of Planning and Development that developments of five or more housing units must adhere to the Department's Affirmative Marketing Plan. The County's plan identifies the methods that HOME Program recipients are to use in developing their affirmative marketing plans for submission and approval by the Department.

Cook County Department of Planning and Development will inform the public, owners and potential tenants about Federal fair housing laws and the County affirmative marketing policy through the distribution of fair housing information at each of the public hearings that are held throughout the year. In addition, the Department will make fair housing information available in its office, on its website and in application materials distributed to all potential HOME Program applicants. The information that will be made available will list the County policy and a prescribed method for achieving compliance with the County requirements.

Each owner that has received County HOME funding must conduct its business operations in a manner that promotes fair and equal access to all those who apply and are eligible for tenancy. That should include the selection of a management agent or the employment of internal staff that are familiar with the fair housing laws as well as what constitutes prohibited acts under the fair housing laws and the use of the Fair Housing Logo and Slogan on all marketing materials, with the inclusion of information on where discrimination complaints can be filed by rejected applicants.

All Cook County HOME applicants must submit an affirmative marketing plan that indicates the racial composition of the housing primary market area in which the housing will be located. The plan also requires applicants to submit a list of the targeted groups the HOME applicant believes are least likely to apply for housing in the project. In arriving at this list, the HOME applicant should consider factors such as price or rental of housing, sponsorship of housing, racial/ethnic characteristics of housing market area in which housing will be located, disability or familial status of eligible population and public transportation routes.

The HOME applicant must describe the marketing program that it will use to attract members of the eligible population, with special emphasis on those groups designated least likely to apply. The applicant shall indicate the type of media identified in the plan and the size or duration of newspaper advertising or length and frequency of broadcast advertising. Community contacts include individuals or organizations that are well known in the housing market area or the locality that can influence persons within groups considered least likely to apply. Such contacts may include neighborhood, minority and women's organizations, labor unions, employers, public and private agencies, disability advocates, schools and individuals who are connected with these organizations and/or well known in the community.

The HOME applicant must also include information that best describe marketing activities for outreach to fill vacancies as they occur after the project has been initially occupied.

In addition, the HOME applicant must indicate whether the sales/rental staff has had previous experience in marketing housing to groups identified as least likely to apply for the housing. The applicant must describe the instructions and training provided,

or to be provided, to sales/rental staff. This information must include detailed explanations of Federal, State and local fair housing laws and the affirmative plan.

The HOME applicant will be responsible for maintaining documentation that demonstrates the applicant affirmative marketing efforts. Such information should include copies of the correspondence sent to community agencies that represent outreach to those groups least likely to apply along with meetings minutes, or resolutions from the agency documenting the organizations' efforts in reaching their respective constituents. The HOME applicant must keep the affirmative marketing records, from the marketing study, which begins prior to the start of construction until 60 percent of occupancy is achieved. At 60 percent of occupancy, the applicant must submit a status report indicated those efforts. That report will also be due monthly until 100% occupancy is achieved and annually for ongoing compliance for units that become vacant.

Cook County will annually assess the success of the affirmative marketing action at each annual on-site compliance review for projects of 26 or more units. For projects between 5 and 25 units, all affirmative marketing action will be subject to a desk monitoring and an onsite inspection, if the desk monitoring uncovers a preliminary finding of non-compliance. The success of the Affirmative Marketing Plan will be judged based on the number of applications received from those identified as least likely to apply and the number that actually rent or purchase units within the project. At least 5% of all applications received should be from the targeted groups, with at least 1% of new residents representing one of the targeted groups. If an inspection determines that no applications are being received from those least likely to apply, the department will require the HOME subrecipient to institute a more aggressive affirmative marketing plan, with monitoring being conducted more frequently to ensure reaching the Department's affirmative marketing goals.

c. Describe outreach to minority and women owned businesses.

Cook County encourages funding recipients to reach out to minority and women-owned businesses (MBE/WBE) in the selection of contractors for both bid and performance awards. All subrecipients are required to submit a copy of the bid documents for each construction project to the Cook County Office of Contract Compliance and to the Bureau of Economic Development. The County will not authorize an advertisement for bids until the above-cited action has been completed. The Office of Contract Compliance makes every effort to refer to funding recipients MBE and WBE firms as potential bidders as general contractors, subcontractors, and/or suppliers.

Please see the Appendix for additional information.

HOMELESS

Homeless Needs

1. Identify actions taken to address needs of homeless persons.

All homeless strategies are conducted in coordination with the local Continuum of Care (CoC), for which the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County is the lead agency. The CoC is an umbrella organization that coordinates homeless

services provided in all of Cook County except for Chicago. The key to the success of the Continuum of Care process is the inclusion of all community members. Membership of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County includes providers of homeless services, county government and local towns and villages, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, faith communities, concerned residents, and private businesses and foundations. The Alliance uses grass-roots organization techniques to bring together caregivers and service providers in the region, ensuring that homeless issues are dealt with on a day-to-day basis. They form a collaborative system, sharing information, referral, shelter, and service delivery within their local communities.

Through Community Based Service Areas (CBSA) the Alliance has helped to organize a collaborative network of service providers that is divided into three regions; the north, west, and south areas of suburban Cook County. This network is essential to the effective distribution of homeless services throughout the suburbs because it ensures communication, referrals, and, often times, shelter for homeless service consumers in the region.

Cook County continued its efforts to improve the Continuum of Care (CoC) system through its partnerships with the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and the three CBSAs (North, West, and South). Specifically, Cook County made CDBG funding available to support staff to administer the operations of the Alliance and Continuum process. Please see the Activity Summaries by Program in Appendix 2 for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

As noted earlier in this report, in Program Year 2011, the Cook County Continuum of Care was awarded \$9,718,283 in HUD funding to support fifty-one (51) projects over the next three years.

The Alliance, in partnership with the County, has continued to refine its procedures, created a formal review and appeals process, improved its survey research methodologies and needs assessment techniques, revised and improved the project prioritization and review process, and implemented a performance evaluation system. Several subcommittees have assisted in these efforts. The Project Review and Prioritization Committee have improved the review criteria. The Committee now includes more members from the Alliance, who are not primarily homeless service providers, in order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. The Continuum of Care Committee is modifying and improving the existing strategy and has enhanced the Gaps Analysis to reflect more current data. The Chronic Homeless Committee has developed a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness. The Homeless Preventive Committee has developed a coordinated system to deliver homeless prevention funds from the State of Illinois within each service area.

The Cook County/Alliance partnership continued a process for agencies applying for funding to consistently participate with the Continuum of Care process and system. Cook County requires that these agencies submit a Continuum of Care Participation Plan that details their level of participation and commitment to the County's process. Since funding applications are reviewed in light of participation plans, it motivates applicants to become actively involved in the process. This review procedure also demonstrates the County's commitment to the Continuum process and system. The Alliance requires a similar Participation Plan from SuperNOFA applicants.

The Alliance has a seat on the County Community Development Advisory Council (CDAC), which recommends all grant funding proposals to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. This provides a vital connection for the Alliance with County government, advances the issue of suburban homelessness on the County's agenda, and improves access to other County funding sources to address the needs identified in the CoC Gaps Analysis.

2. Identify actions to help homeless persons make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

As noted earlier in this report, HOME funding is partially being utilized to develop permanent supportive housing. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

3. Identify new Federal resources obtained from Homeless SuperNOFA.

As noted earlier in this report, in Program Year 2011, the Cook County Continuum of Care was awarded \$9,718,283 in HUD funding to support fifty-one (51) projects over the next three years.

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

1. Identify actions taken to prevent homelessness.

During Program Year 2011, the Federal regulations governing the ESG program were substantially modified. This program revision included changing the program name from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants while the related acronym remained the same. These regulatory changes took effect beginning with the second allocation of 2011 ESG dollars. While these funds were technically awarded under the auspices of the 2011 Program Year, they actually correspond with the 2012 Program Year per HUD guidance. As such, related performance data for the 2011 second allocation is not included in this CAPER, which covers an earlier reporting period.

However, receipt of the aforementioned ESG funds under the new regulation required that a revised program strategy be articulated via a Substantial Amendment. This Substantial Amendment was previously submitted to HUD and further refinement continues based upon ongoing HUD advisement. As such, the ESG Program continues to operate in a state of transition. It is anticipated that the pending revision of the Consolidated Plan will more fully summarize related goals and strategies.

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)

1. Identify actions to address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families (including significant subpopulations such as those living on the streets).

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

2. Assessment of Relationship of ESG Funds to Goals and Objectives

- a. Evaluate progress made in using ESG funds to address homeless and homeless prevention needs, goals, and specific objectives established in the Consolidated Plan.**
- b. Detail how ESG projects are related to implementation of comprehensive homeless planning strategy, including the number and types of individuals and persons in households served with ESG funds.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

3. Matching Resources

- a. Provide specific sources and amounts of new funding used to meet match as required by 42 USC 11375(a)(1), including cash resources, grants, and staff salaries, as well as in-kind contributions such as the value of a building or lease, donated materials, or volunteer time.**

The ESG program regulations have a match requirement of one-hundred (100) percent. Due to limited corporate funds, required match is fully furnished by funding recipients based upon eligible match sources. In some cases, the amount of match provided actually exceeds the required amount. Please see the Appendix for additional information.

Cook County is very interested in tracking funding leverage above and beyond required match. The entire County currently reports on accomplishments via the Set Targets Achieve Results (STAR) performance management initiative. It is anticipated that a performance measure will be developed and implemented in the future to better capture other financial resources leveraged with Federal grant dollars. Initial discussions regarding standardization of IDIS data entries to consistently reflect match are also underway.

4. State Method of Distribution

- a. States must describe their method of distribution and how it rated and selected its local government agencies and private nonprofit organizations acting as subrecipients.**

This item is not applicable.

5. Activity and Beneficiary Data

- a. Completion of attached Emergency Shelter Grant Program Performance Chart or other reports showing ESG expenditures by type of activity. Also describe any problems in collecting, reporting, and evaluating the reliability of this information.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

- b. Homeless Discharge Coordination**

- i. As part of the government developing and implementing a homeless discharge coordination policy, ESG homeless prevention funds may be used to assist very-low income individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless after being released from publicly funded institutions such as health care facilities, foster care or other youth facilities, or corrections institutions or programs.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

- c. Explain how your government is instituting a homeless discharge coordination policy, and how ESG homeless prevention funds are being used in this effort.**

A discharge policy is necessary to prevent the discharge of persons from publicly funded institutions or systems of care that will result in homelessness. Every year, the providers of the Continuum of Care revisit their discharge policy and update it. The latest discharge policy is outlined below. The County and the Continuum will continue to examine enhancing existing policies and protocols to ensure effectiveness and to further enhance discharge planning cooperation. Currently, the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and its Continuum members understand and agree to the following:

Foster Care (Youth Aging Out):

The Youth Housing Assistance Program of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) provides housing advocacy and cash assistance to young people ages 18 to 21 emancipated from foster care. These youth have received services to prepare them for transitioning to adulthood. Therefore, the program attempts to discharge them to their own housing in the community they choose. Up to six months before emancipation, the youth applies to the program and is assigned a Housing Advocate who helps to find housing, create a budget, and link to other services. The program offers cash assistance for security deposit and move-in expenses up to \$800 (\$1,200 if parenting, pregnant or disabled) and a rental subsidy up to \$250 per month. Being homeless or at risk of homelessness is one of the program's eligibility factors. This formal protocol is understood and agreed to by the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County, youth service providers, and the DCFS Local Area Networks (LAN's) and Housing Advocates. Also, in FY 2010, the Social Security Administration developed a new policy allowing disabled youth aging out of foster care to begin their SSI application process 90 days before foster care ends, up from 30 days.

Health Care:

Medicaid is an important funding source for homeless persons, and with the full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014, Medicaid will be an even greater health resource for homeless persons transitioning from a healthcare setting (i.e. nursing homes and hospitals) to supportive housing. As such, the Alliance is beginning to investigate Medicaid's ability to cover and reimburse supportive housing services for homeless persons, which would facilitate discharge planning efforts. Furthermore, for the 2011 homeless count, the Alliance included a question about residence before homelessness, which will allow us to gauge the degree to which hospitals and other publicly funded institutions are discharging patients into homelessness, and ultimately design an effective response. Most homeless patients currently go to a shelter or family or friend's house upon discharge. The Alliance will work with the Corporation for Supportive Housing, which is holding a webinar series and technical assistance trainings to improve Medicaid's connection with supportive housing. Alliance members also work locally with hospital representatives to provide improved housing referral information for patients being discharged.

Mental Health:

The Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Mental Health (DMH) continues to participate fully in the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County by sitting on its Board of Directors and actively participating on several of its committees. DMH recognizes it is a best practice not to discharge into homelessness and works with its community mental health provider agencies to find appropriate housing for persons being discharged from its facilities. State Funded Inpatient Psychiatric Services (SFIPS) facilities are to delay discharge if by so doing housing will be available in a reasonable period of time. DMH screens persons who enter a facility without benefits as to their eligibility and then seeks to complete a benefits application prior to discharge. It has cooperated in providing SOAR training at its facilities for its own staff and the staff of community providers. It has declared homelessness a status that entitles a person with a serious mental illness to be selected for its Bridge permanent supportive housing program, a Medicaid initiative that has been highly successful over the past four years. SFIPS site staff attempt to discharge persons who entered as homeless into housing by re-establishing contacts with families or friends, helping an individual move into their own unit with supportive community services, connecting them to skilled nursing, intermediate care facilities or IMDs, room and board facilities, or DMH residential treatment programs.

Corrections:

The Alliance works with Illinois Department of Corrections (IDoC) programming called TRAC (Trained Reformed And Capable) to ensure successful re-entry. TRAC begins at intake and extends throughout incarceration, identifying housing needs and working to obtain appropriate housing before release. The prisons host Re-entry Summits to highlight community resources available to offenders upon release. IDoC partners with Veteran Affairs to assist incarcerated veterans in obtaining housing and other resources. Illinois passed a bill last year to suspend rather than revoke Medicaid for detainees. IDoC has an agreement with SSA to expedite Social Security Cards and disability applications prior to release.

Detainees with special needs are assigned dedicated staff to monitor their progress in programming while incarcerated. Placement Resource Unit caseworkers identify services needed upon re-entry, including special needs housing placements funded by IDoC and operated by community organizations. The Cook County Jail

implemented an info system to track homelessness upon entry. The jail hosts quarterly resource fairs allowing detainees to obtain state ID's and apply for benefits. The jail has added three case workers for persons with mental illness leaving the jail and has added discharge planning training for general population counseling staff. The jail was awarded state and federal grants to study the sentenced population and the effects of improved discharge planning.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Community Development

- 1. Assessment of Relationship of CDBG Funds to Goals and Objectives**
 - a. Assess use of CDBG funds in relation to the priorities, needs, goals, and specific objectives in the Consolidated Plan, particularly the highest priority activities.**
 - b. Evaluate progress made toward meeting goals for providing affordable housing using CDBG funds, including the number and types of households served.**
 - c. Indicate the extent to which CDBG funds were used for activities that benefited extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income persons.**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

- 2. Changes in Program Objectives**
 - a. Identify the nature of and the reasons for any changes in program objectives and how the jurisdiction would change its program as a result of its experiences.**

This item is not applicable as the County did not change its program objectives during Program Year 2011.

- 3. Assessment of Efforts in Carrying Out Planned Actions**
 - a. Indicate how grantee pursued all resources indicated in the Consolidated Plan.**

Please see the earlier sections of this report regarding resources pursued and utilized.

- b. Indicate how grantee provided certifications of consistency in a fair and impartial manner.**

The County is responsible for providing certifications of consistency with the Consolidated Plan for projects where organizations are seeking public funds. All requests for certifications of consistency with the Consolidated Plan were fulfilled upon request as appropriate with certifications provided immediately upon confirmation of consistency.

c. Indicate how grantee did not hinder Consolidated Plan implementation by action or willful inaction.

Despite the challenges with the current goals/strategies outlined earlier in this report and the planned revision, Cook County implemented CDBG, ESG, and HOME programming and projects in accordance with the current Consolidated Plan as appropriate.

4. For Funds Not Used for National Objectives

- a. Indicate how use of CDBG funds did not meet national objectives.**
- b. Indicate how did not comply with overall benefit certification.**

This item is not applicable as all CDBG activities conformed to national objectives during Program Year 2011.

5. Anti-displacement and Relocation – for activities that involve acquisition, rehabilitation or demolition of occupied real property

- a. Describe steps actually taken to minimize the amount of displacement resulting from the CDBG-assisted activities.**
- b. Describe steps taken to identify households, businesses, farms or nonprofit organizations who occupied properties subject to the Uniform Relocation Act or Section 104(d) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, and whether or not they were displaced, and the nature of their needs and preferences.**
- c. Describe steps taken to ensure the timely issuance of information notices to displaced households, businesses, farms, or nonprofit organizations.**

All program year 2011 funding application materials included language regarding anti-displacement and relocation requirements. However, this item is not applicable as no persons, businesses, or organizations were displaced during Program Year 2011 under CDBG, ESG, or HOME.

It is anticipated that the County's Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan will be updated during Program Year 2012.

6. Low/Mod Job Activities – for economic development activities undertaken where jobs were made available but not taken by low- or moderate-income persons

- a. Describe actions taken by grantee and businesses to ensure first consideration was or will be given to low/mod persons.**
- b. List by job title of all the permanent jobs created/retained and those that were made available to low/mod persons.**
- c. If any of jobs claimed as being available to low/mod persons require special skill, work experience, or education, provide a description of steps being taken or that will be taken to provide such skills, experience, or education.**

This item is not applicable, as CDBG did not support economic development activities where jobs were made available but not taken by low- and moderate-income persons.

7. Low/Mod Limited Clientele Activities – for activities not falling within one of the categories of presumed limited clientele low and moderate income benefit

- a. Describe how the nature, location, or other information demonstrates the activities benefit a limited clientele at least 51% of whom are low- and moderate-income.**

All CDBG-funded activities that meet a limited clientele national objective (where at least 51% of the beneficiaries qualify as low- or moderate-income) were required to verify beneficiary income through an income documentation process or were presumed to meet the national objective by exclusively serving one of the “presumed benefit” populations enumerated in the CBDG regulations, including abused children, battered spouses, homeless persons, seniors, illiterate adults, persons with HIV/AIDS, and adults with disabilities. Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

8. Program income received

- a. Detail the amount of program income reported that was returned to each individual revolving fund, e.g., housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other type of revolving fund.**
b. Detail the amount repaid on each float-funded activity.
c. Detail all other loan repayments broken down by the categories of housing rehabilitation, economic development, or other.
d. Detail the amount of income received from the sale of property by parcel.

All program income for Program Year 2011 was derived from repayments of previously awarded owner occupied single-family rehabilitation loans. Payments are only due upon sale or transfer and are not current tracked via a portfolio management system. Review of previously awarded loans as well as eligibility for release is ongoing.

9. Prior period adjustments – where reimbursement was made this reporting period for expenditures (made in previous reporting periods) that have been disallowed, provide the following information:

- a. The activity name and number as shown in IDIS;**
b. The program year(s) in which the expenditure(s) for the disallowed activity(ies) was reported;
c. The amount returned to line-of-credit or program account; and
d. Total amount to be reimbursed and the time period over which the reimbursement is to be made, if the reimbursement is made with multi-year payments.

No prior period adjustments based upon disallowed activities were required during Program Year 2011.

10. Loans and other receivables

- a. List the principal balance for each float-funded activity outstanding as of the end of the reporting period and the date(s) by which the funds are expected to be received.**
b. List the total number of other loans outstanding and the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period.

- c. **List separately the total number of outstanding loans that are deferred or forgivable, the principal balance owed as of the end of the reporting period, and the terms of the deferral or forgiveness.**
- d. **Detail the total number and amount of loans made with CDBG funds that have gone into default and for which the balance was forgiven or written off during the reporting period.**
- e. **Provide a List of the parcels of property owned by the grantee or its subrecipients that have been acquired or improved using CDBG funds and that are available for sale as of the end of the reporting period.**

All program income for Program Year 2011 was derived from repayments of previously awarded owner occupied single-family rehabilitation loans. Payments are only due upon sale or transfer and are not current tracked via a portfolio management system. Review of previously awarded loans as well as eligibility for release is ongoing.

11.Lump sum agreements

- a. **Provide the name of the financial institution.**
- b. **Provide the date the funds were deposited.**
- c. **Provide the date the use of funds commenced.**
- d. **Provide the percentage of funds disbursed within 180 days of deposit in the institution.**

This item is not applicable, as the County does not currently utilize the lump sum option.

12.Housing Rehabilitation – for each type of rehabilitation program for which projects/units were reported as completed during the program year

- a. **Identify the type of program and number of projects/units completed for each program.**
- b. **Provide the total CDBG funds involved in the program.**
- c. **Detail other public and private funds involved in the project.**

This item is not applicable, as the County did not operate a housing rehabilitation program during Program Year 2011.

13.Neighborhood Revitalization Strategies – for grantees that have HUD-approved neighborhood revitalization strategies

- a. **Describe progress against benchmarks for the program year. For grantees with Federally-designated EZs or ECs that received HUD approval for a neighborhood revitalization strategy, reports that are required as part of the EZ/EC process shall suffice for purposes of reporting progress.**

This item is not applicable, as the County does not currently utilize the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) option.

Antipoverty Strategy

1. Describe actions taken during the last year to reduce the number of persons living below the poverty level.

The prevalence of poverty extends beyond the boundaries of Cook County, presenting as a local, regional, state, and national issue. At its most basic level, poverty indicates a lack of income and resources to fulfill basic human needs relating to health, hunger, education, housing, etc. Poverty may be chronic or episodic. The ongoing economic crisis has exacerbated this issue. A 2010 Brookings Institution report highlighted the “suburbanization of poverty” noting that by 2008, suburbs, specifically those within the largest metropolitan areas, contained the most sizeable and fast-growing population of the poor in the nation. Midwestern communities appeared to experience the most significant increases in the poverty rate between 2000 and 2008.

While Cook County’s capacity to mitigate or eliminate poverty is limited by geography and available resources, the County is committed to supporting programs and projects which will improve the quality of life for low- and moderate-income families including the impoverished. Recognizing that expanding employment opportunities is a critical strategy in addressing the needs of low-income households Cook County is tackling this issue on multiple fronts.

As a recipient of HUD funding, the Cook County Department of Planning and Development complies with Federal Section 3 rules. Section 3 is a provision of the HUD Act of 1968 that helps foster local economic development, neighborhood economic improvement, and individual self-sufficiency. Section 3 requires that HUD recipients, to the greatest extent feasible, provide job training, employment, and contracting opportunities for low- or very-low- income residents in connection with projects and activities in their neighborhoods. Towards this end, CDBG and HOME construction funding application materials highlight major Federal requirements including Section 3 compliance. CDBG funding applicants are also required to attend pre-application and post-award workshops, which provide an overview of funding requirements including Section 3 as applicable. In addition, funding recipients receive written agreements, which outline pertinent Federal rules and regulations as well as related compliance requirements based upon the funding source inclusive of Section 3 provisions. Funding recipient compliance with Section 3 is assessed via desk and on-site monitoring as applicable.

In addition, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership (formerly known as the President’s Office of Employment Training and Cook County Works) along with the Cook County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), is committed to assisting the residents of suburban Cook County through the administration of the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) which provides residents with employment training, placement, and educational opportunities. Cook County Works offers important job training services and programs to assist residents in the search for employment and helps them to enhance existing job skills. Labor market and Illinois Skills Match assessment services are also available in the Illinois Employment Training Centers / One Stop Centers.

In Program Year 2011, the City of Chicago and Cook County combined three separate Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) – Chicago, Northern Cook,

and Southern Cook – into a single LWIA. Moving from three administrative agencies to one will streamline and standardize processes for clients, businesses, delegate agencies, and training providers. By combining Chicago and Cook County’s workforce development programs, the goal is to maximize opportunities for residents looking for jobs, reduce administrative costs, and expand job creation throughout the region. The reorganization, more specifically, will result in improved service delivery to residents seeking workforce solutions, help to eliminate duplicative administrative costs across the LWIA system, making more funds available to be used in training and development programs.

It is anticipated that, if approved, the utilization of the Section 108 loan pool will supplement the strategies outlined above.

NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS

Non-homeless Special Needs

- 1. Identify actions taken to address special needs of persons that are not homeless but require supportive housing, (including persons with HIV/AIDS and their families).**

Please see the Appendix for additional information regarding funded programs and projects and accomplishments including completion status.

Specific HOPWA Objectives

- 1. Overall Assessment of Relationship of HOPWA Funds to Goals and Objectives**

Grantees should demonstrate through the CAPER and related IDIS reports the progress they are making at accomplishing identified goals and objectives with HOPWA funding. Grantees should demonstrate:

- a. That progress is being made toward meeting the HOPWA goal for providing affordable housing using HOPWA funds and other resources for persons with HIV/AIDS and their families through a comprehensive community plan;**
- b. That community-wide HIV/AIDS housing strategies are meeting HUD’s national goal of increasing the availability of decent, safe, and affordable housing for low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS;**
- c. That community partnerships between State and local governments and community-based non-profits are creating models and innovative strategies to serve the housing and related supportive service needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families;**
- d. That through community-wide strategies Federal, State, local, and other resources are matched with HOPWA funding to create comprehensive housing strategies;**
- e. That community strategies produce and support actual units of housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS; and finally,**
- f. That community strategies identify and supply related supportive services in conjunction with housing to ensure the needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families are met.**

This item is not applicable, as the County does not currently receive HOPWA funding.

2. This should be accomplished by providing an executive summary (1-5 pages) that includes:
 - a. Grantee Narrative
 - i. Grantee and Community Overview
 - (1) A brief description of your organization, the area of service, the name of each project sponsor and a broad overview of the range/type of housing activities and related services
 - (2) How grant management oversight of project sponsor activities is conducted and how project sponsors are selected
 - (3) A description of the local jurisdiction, its need, and the estimated number of persons living with HIV/AIDS
 - (4) A brief description of the planning and public consultations involved in the use of HOPWA funds including reference to any appropriate planning document or advisory body
 - (5) What other resources were used in conjunction with HOPWA funded activities, including cash resources and in-kind contributions, such as the value of services or materials provided by volunteers or by other individuals or organizations
 - (6) Collaborative efforts with related programs including coordination and planning with clients, advocates, Ryan White CARE Act planning bodies, AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, homeless assistance programs, or other efforts that assist persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families.
 - ii. Project Accomplishment Overview
 - (1) A brief summary of all housing activities broken down by three types: emergency or short-term rent, mortgage or utility payments to prevent homelessness; rental assistance; facility based housing, including development cost, operating cost for those facilities and community residences
 - (2) The number of units of housing which have been created through acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction since 1993 with any HOPWA funds
 - (3) A brief description of any unique supportive service or other service delivery models or efforts
 - (4) Any other accomplishments recognized in your community due to the use of HOPWA funds, including any projects in developmental stages that are not operational.
 - iii. Barriers or Trends Overview
 - (1) Describe any barriers encountered, actions in response to barriers, and recommendations for program improvement
 - (2) Trends you expect your community to face in meeting the needs of persons with HIV/AIDS, and
 - (3) Any other information you feel may be important as you look at providing services to persons with HIV/AIDS in the next 5-10 years
 - b. Accomplishment Data
 - i. Completion of CAPER Performance Chart 1 of Actual Performance in the provision of housing (Table II-1 to be submitted with CAPER).

ii. Completion of CAPER Performance Chart 2 of Comparison to Planned Housing Actions (Table II-2 to be submitted with CAPER).

This item is not applicable, as the County does not currently receive HOPWA funding.

APPENDICES

1 – Stakeholder Consultation and Citizen Participation

2 – Activity Summaries by Program

3 – Annual Performance and Match Reports

4 - IDIS Reports

5 – Section 3 Reports

6 – Substantial Amendments

7 – Internal Amendments and Transfers